

**Washington State Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board**  
**Minutes of Meeting No. 111**  
**June 29, 2006**

Mr. David Harrison called the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (Workforce Board) meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. at Pierce College Fort Steilacoom Main Board Room. The following Board members and officers were present:

David Harrison, Board Chair  
Rick Bender, Labor Representative  
Jim Crabbe for Charlie Earl, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC)  
Rod Duckworth for Terry Bergeson, Office of Superintendent of Public Construction (OSPI)  
Julianne Hanner, Business Representative  
Mike Hudson, Business Representative  
Karen Lee, Employment Security Department (ESD)  
Asbury Lockett, Business Representative  
Lynnae Ruttledge for Robin Arnold-Williams, Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS)  
Beth Thew, Labor Representative

Ellen O'Brien Saunders, Executive Director

**Welcome and Introductions**

Mr. Harrison welcomed the Board and staff to Pierce College Fort Steilacoom. Mr. Harrison made special acknowledgements to Ms. Ellen O'Brien Saunders, as she is retiring from the Workforce Board after 15 years. Mr. Harrison presented Ms. O'Brien Saunders with a framed official Workforce Board Resolution thanking her for her service. Mr. Harrison introduced the Interim Executive Director, Mr. Don Bennett. Mr. Bennett was formerly Executive Secretary for the Personnel Appeals Board. Mr. Harrison recognizes that Mr. Bennett will only be with the Board for six months, but it should prove to be a big six months. Mr. Harrison recognized Denise Yochum, President of Pierce College, Fort Steilacoom who is very active in the Workforce System, including Skill Panels and Homeland Security. Ms. Yochum welcomed the Workforce Board. Mr. Harrison also welcomed Mr. Colin Conant, Tacoma Pierce County Workforce Development Council (WDC) Director.

**Motion 06-111-01**

Mr. Jim Crabbe moved to adopt the May 10 and 11, 2006, minutes. Ms. Beth Thew seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Chair's Report**

Mr. Harrison announced that Mr. Rick Bender and others have urged us (the Workforce Board) to intensify our efforts to make sure that Washington Learns understands our issues. Mr. Bender, Mr. Harrison, Ms. O'Brien Saunders, and Mr. Wilson met with Ann Daley, Staff Director of Washington Learns. Mr. Bender asked Mr. Wilson about the draft goals from Washington Learns regarding higher education. Mr. Wilson explained that the goals included four of the Board's six recommendations. Missing are customized training and a general increase in student enrollment at the sub-baccalaureate level. Mr. Harrison said the meeting with Denny Heck on July 6 will give us

more information. Mr. Bennett and Ms. Julianne Hanner have agreed to attend the National Association of State Workforce Board Chairs annual meeting in Jackson Hole, Wyoming in August. With regard to the review process, Ms. Karen Lee and Mr. Harrison have been to several WDC meetings. Mr. Harrison emphasized to the Board that it is very important that everyone attend the August meeting. Ms. Lee made an announcement with regard to the most recent staff changes at ESD. Mr. Harrison suggested that the Workforce Board staff and ESD staff get together to introduce the new staff.

### **Executive Director's Report**

Ms. O'Brien Saunders highlighted the information in the brown folders. Ms. Pam Lund presented the WDC Certifications for 2006-2008. The Board unanimously adopted the recommended motion. Mr. Wong introduced the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act Fund Distribution to the Board. Mr. Wong indicated there was a slight reduction of \$14,000. Mr. Crabbe inquired which elements of the Board are under Government Management Accountability Performance (GMAP). Ms. O'Brien Saunders indicated that there is a GMAP process for the agency itself, but the agency does not run a GMAP process for the system as a whole. Ms. Lee reiterated that at the last Board meeting we said at the service delivery end that participant service would fall under GMAP.

### **Motion 06-111-02**

Mr. Harrison moved that the Workforce Board approve the Perkins Funds Distribution. The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

### **Motion 06-111-03**

Mr. Bender moved to adopt the 2006-2007 Operating Budget. Mr. Asbury Lockett seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### **Workforce Training Results**

Mr. Wilson presented the materials in Tab 2. He began by responding to the Board's questions from the last meeting. Ms. Evelyn Hawkins presented a review of the results for WorkFirst participants. Mr. Bender inquired about the percentage of individuals in the WorkFirst program that are not high school graduates. Ms. Hawkins replied that 45 percent of individuals were not graduates. Ms. Lee mentioned that not all WorkFirst recipients go to Job Search. An individual is only supposed to go to Job Search when ready for employment. Mr. Mike Hudson asked what would prevent someone in the WorkFirst Program from getting into an apprenticeship program. Mr. Bender answered that a diploma or a GED would be required. Ms. Thew added they would have to pass the test for the apprenticeship program. Ms. Thew added that another obstacle for a single parent household would be childcare. Mr. Harrison introduced Mr. Kevin Hollenbeck to present the net impact and cost/benefit results for 11 workforce training programs. Ms. Lynnea Ruttledge asked if there were other states looking at similar studies. Mr. Hollenbeck stated that as far as he knew Massachusetts was the only other state that had done a similar study.

### **WorkSource Results**

Mr. Carl Wolfhagen presented the material in Tab 3. Mr. Harrison and Ms. Lee asked if these results were available by region. Mr. Wolfhagen responded that most were. Ms. Ruttledge asked about the hours worked versus the wage per hour for disabled workers. Ms. Thew asked if there is a plan to drop the measure of the number of students in WorkSource. Mr. Wolfhagen responded that was the recommendation of the interagency Performance Management for Continuous Improvement workgroup.

### **Overview of the Current Workforce Development System Structure**

Mr. Wilson presented the materials for Tab 4 to provide the Board with background information for the review of the system. Ms. Thew asked what percentage of the total \$900 million for all workforce programs is federal and what is state. Mr. Wilson informed the Board that as far as he could recall the number was about 25 percent federal. (Subsequent checking shows that 19 percent of the Workforce System's funds are federal). Mr. Wilson gave a brief history of past reviews of the Workforce Development System.

### **Student Financial Aid**

Mr. John Klacik, Higher Education Coordinating Board, presented an overview of Student Financial Aid to the Board.

### **Federal Waivers**

Mr. Wilson presented the material in Tab 5 regarding federal waivers. Mr. Mike Hudson asked about waivers for membership requirements. Mr. Wilson responded that none have been granted. If the Board membership changes it would have to meet Department of Labor requirements. Mr. Conant asked the Board to not consider waivers to allow consolidating local area councils. Mr. Tim Probst added the waiver for local areas to conduct activities, such as incumbent worker training, can be attractive. Ms. Sue Ambler, Interim Director of the Snohomish County WDC, agreed and also supported a waiver to allow smaller firms to supply less than a 50 percent match. Ms. Lee asked if the rapid response money was the Trade Act rapid response money. Mr. Wilson reassured her that it was not. Mr. Wilson gave Mr. Martin McCallum recognition for producing the material in the tab. Mr. McCallum is in Rwanda, Africa.

### **National Work Readiness Credential**

Ms. Pam Lund presented the material for Tab 6. Mr. Harrison congratulated Ms. Lund and her staff for a successful Skill Panels Institute. Ms. Lund acknowledged Mr. Conant and Ms. Ambler, who are two of the WDC investors for the Work Readiness Credential (WRC). Ms. Lund indicated that the soft launch will be in September 2006, and the full launch will be in January, 2007. Ms. Ruttledge wants the test to be accessible to people with disabilities. Ms. Ruttledge noted that we need to track the outcome of this effort. Mr. Hudson agreed with Ms. Ruttledge. We need to demonstrate the value of WRC to the employers and let them create the demand. Ms. Hanner inquired about the pilot and the market testing. Ms. Lee added that one of the issues that could arise is whether employers should be charged for the test.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.